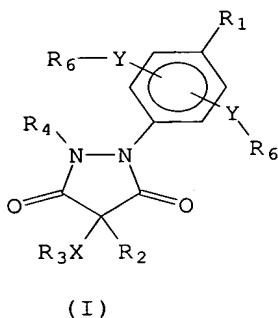


Abstract

The present invention relates to optionally substituted compounds of the formula I or a salts thereof;



wherein R_1 is O or S, R_2 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_{10} organic group attached by a carbon atom, X is H, O, OO, S or SS R_3 is absent where $X=H$, is hydrogen or is a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group, R_4 is a hetero- or homo-cyclic aryl group, optionally substituted with a further group R_5 , one Y group is S and the other is either H (in which case only one R_6 group is present) or S; and R_6 is, independently, an organic group of molecular weight up to around 500 amu. The invention also provides compositions comprising such compounds and methods of treatment comprising administration of such compositions.